

Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District

Fall Edition
October 2016

Conservation Information

26032-C Newt Road
Agri-Civic Center
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-986-3059



2016 Agri-Civic Center Day

The sixth annual Stanly County Agri-Civic Day, sponsored by the Friends of the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center (FACC), was held August 20th with attendance up from last year. Agri-Civic Day is a celebration of the county's rich agricultural heritage. Many local sponsors contributed to the success of this event. Children had choices of bounce houses, corn pits, a straw bale maze, face painting, balloon animals, Smokey the Bear, pony rides, gold panning and even milking Elsie the fake cow. Adults also enjoyed heritage/historical demonstrations, livestock judging, mule jumps, food vendors, live entertainment, heavy equipment and farm machinery. The purpose of the event is to bring attention to and gather support for the facility that provides services to the residents of Stanly and surrounding counties. Thanks to the support of many sponsors, admission was free.

The Friends of the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center is a nonprofit organization.



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District Board Members

Terry Blalock	Chairman
John Pickler	Vice-Chairman
Jody Smith	Secretary/ Treasurer
Curtis Furr	Supervisor
Aaron Burleson	Supervisor
W. Chester Lowder	Advisor

District and NRCS Staff

Clint Brooks	District Conservationist
Rita Little	Admin/Education Coordinator
Chris Childers	Conservation Planner
Charles Dunevant	Soil Conservationist
Lin Taylor	Civil Engineer Technician



Area VIII Fall Meeting

The Area VIII Fall Meeting was hosted by Iredell Soil and Water Conservation District. Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Davidson, Davie, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union Counties make up Area VIII.

The meeting was held at Grayhouse Farms . GrayHouse Farms is a dairy farm located near Stony Point, between Statesville and Hickory.

Brian Harwell, Area VIII Chairperson, called the meeting to order and moderated the business meeting. Reports from the NC Association of SWCD, the NC Division of SWCD, NRCS, the NC Foundation for SWCD and the NC Conservation District Employees Association were then heard. Service awards and the Outstanding Conservation Farm Family presentation followed lunch.

Report Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2016, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2016, and no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable adverse weather event or attack. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 90 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- *Proof of death documentation*
- *Copy of growers contracts*
- *Proof of normal mortality documentation*

These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under “normal” conditions. Producers who suffer livestock losses in 2016 must file both of the following:

- *A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent or by January 30, 2017*
- *An application for payment by March 30, 2017*

Additional information about LIP is available at you local FSA office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov

ARC, PLC and CTAP Acreage Maintenance

Producers enrolled in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or the Cotton Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. Producers who sign ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC, PLC or CTAP, the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for the program year. Sign up begins November 1, 2016.

Stanly SWCD to Host Soil Health Breakfast ...

with an Emphasis on the Economics of Cover Crops and Soil Health



SOIL HEALTH BREAKFAST TURNING DIRT INTO DOLLARS

Speaker: Will Mann-Fishing Creek SWCD

Soil Health Topics

- Defining healthy soil
- Increasing yields while decreasing input cost
- Rate of economic return on healthy soil
- Strategies and methods of developing a plan
- Much, much more!
- \$\$\$\$\$\$



NC FOUNDATION for
**SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION**

**When:
Friday
October 28,
2016 @ 7:00am**

**Where:
Stanly County
Agri-Civic
Center**

**Free Breakfast
Provided**

**Call or email
to RSVP by
10/21/2016**

STANLY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

26032-C Newt Rd
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cbrooks@stanlycountync.gov
rlittle@stanlycountync.gov

Ag Cost Share Programs Available

Soil and Water Conservation Districts implement four cost share programs, all of which share a common goal of increasing water quality. These programs include the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The District accepts applications year round for each of these programs. Received applications are ranked based on various criteria and conservation concerns. The highest ranking application is considered for assistance to install best management practices.

ACSP-The major cause of water quality problems in the area is non-point source pollution. Damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excessive fertilizer use, animal waste contamination, and improper use of agricultural chemicals. The Agriculture Cost Share Program helps address nonpoint source pollution.

AgWRAP-The Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program was recently created in order to address water quantity issues. Producer concerns include water to be used for cropland irrigation, and livestock watering. Multiple best management practices are available to help producers increase their water use efficiency, availability and storage.

CCAP-Nonpoint source pollution stemming from non agricultural sources is also addressed through cost share programs. The Community Conservation Assistance Program is available to address water quality issues that are present in urban, suburban and rural areas. Assistance is available to implement best management practices which address and increase overall water quality.

CREP-Lastly, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is available to protect environmentally sensitive cropland and marginal pasture land long term. This is accomplished through 10, 15, and 30 year conservation easements.



USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Stanly SWCD prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communication at (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (Voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD).

Erosion Control Materials Available

Landowners and producers are encouraged to take advantage of another service provided by the Stanly SWCD. Erosion control materials are now in stock and available for purchase.



“Erosion control blankets are effective in controlling erosion on slopes and stabilizing soils long enough for re-vegetation seeding to establish on the site. They are designed to be used on gradual to steep slopes, with low to high velocity flow channels, and are available for both short term biodegradable applications, and long-term soil stabilization.” protecherosionsupply.com

8' x 112.5' Single Net Straw Blanket \$25.00 each

8' x 112.5' Double Net Straw Blanket \$28.00 each

4' x 180' Single Net Excelsior Blanket \$38.00 each

6" x 1" 11 gauge Sod Staples \$30.00 box of 1000



“Our wattles are 100% Certified Weed Free Wheat Straw bound into a tight tubular roll. When wattles are placed on the face of slopes, they intercept storm water runoff, reduce its flow velocity, release the runoff as sheet flow, and provide removal of sediment from the runoff. By interrupting the length of a slope, the wattle can also reduce erosion. Wattles are designed to stop sediment and other debris from entering retention ponds, lakes and other water bodies.” Protecherosionsupply.com

12" x 10' Straw Wattle
\$25 each



24" Wood Stake 1.5" x 1.5"
\$16/bundle of 25
or 75¢ each



It's Contest Time!

*2016-2017 Contest
Theme:
"Soil and Water
~Yours for Life"*

*Deadline
January 17, 2017*



Poster Contest 5th grade – Must be titled: "Soil and Water...Yours for Life"

- *Must be original work*
- *No larger than 24" x 36"*

Essay Contest 6th grade – Must be titled: "Soil and Water...Yours for Life"

- *Should contain 300-500 words*
- *Use letter size paper (8.5 x 11)*

Slide Show (PowerPoint) Contest 6th grade – "Soil and Water...Yours for Life"

- *Maximum of 15 slides*
- *May use animation and sound*
- *No video*
- *Submit electronically to rlittle@stanlycountync.gov*

Public Speaking Contest 7th and 8th grade – "Soil and Water...Yours for Life"

- *4-6 minutes*
- *Do not use personal info in speech*

Winners will advance to the Area competition for cash prizes.

*All contests sponsored by the NC Association of Soil and Water
Conservation Districts*

*For more information email rlittle@stanlycountync.gov and to view
the complete contest rule book, visit the NCDS&CS website:
<http://ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/contests.html>*

November 15 Crop Reporting Deadline



In order to comply with Farm Service Agency program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Farm Service Agency to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Stanly County:

- Nov. 15, 2016 Grasses (hay and grazing acres)/PRF/Perennial Forage, Apiculture
- Jan. 15, 2017 Apples, Blueberries, Canola, Grapes, Peaches, Fall-Seeded Small Grains

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria such as clearing any trees to create new cropland, then these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026-Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary

FSAfarm+, FSA's Customer Self-Service Portal

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) has launched a new tool to provide farmers and ranchers with remote access to their personal farm information using their home computers. Farmers and ranchers can now view, print or export their personal farm data all without visiting an FSA county office.

The program, known as FSAfarm+, provides you with secure access to view your personal FSA data, such as base and yields, Conservation Reserve Program data, other conservation program acreage, Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation status information, field boundaries, farm imagery, name and address details, contact information and membership interest and shares in the operation. This data will be available in real time, at no cost to the producer and allow operators and owners to export and print farm records, including maps. Producers also can electronically share their data with a crop insurance agent from their own personal computer.

Farm operators and owners first will need "Level 2 eAuthentication" to access the webportal. This level of security ensures that personal information is protected for each user. Level 2 access can be obtained by going to www.eauth.usda.gov, completing the required information and then visiting your local FSA office to finalize access.

For more information on FSAfarm+, the customer self-service portal, contact your local FSA office.



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www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water

Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Stanly SWCD would like to thank the sponsors of this newsletter. Without their financial support, this publication would not be possible. Please patronize our sponsors whenever possible. Please call 704-986-3059 or email rlittle@stanlycountync.gov to be put on our email list.

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